

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 17 February 2015
Subject: Portfolio Assets and Economic Development
Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Grigg

Recommending:

That the report of the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted.

North Weald Airfield - Park and Ride Scheme

The Assistant Director of Asset Management and Economic Development recently met with Essex County Council Officers. They were preparing a detailed report regarding the viability of a possible park and ride scheme at North Weald Airfield. It was anticipated that the report would be completed by the end of March 2015.

Epping Forest Shopping Park

A progress report was presented to Cabinet on 2nd February noting progress with legal documentation between the Council and the development partner, Polofind Ltd. An appraisal was also discussed setting out values and costs based upon information currently available. This showed a high level of profitability for the Council.

Waltham Abbey Studies

Officers together with external consultants are finalising several studies regarding Waltham Abbey. These commissions are appraising the current position of the town in terms of unemployment, the role and function of the town centre. It was hoped to be able to report on the findings by Spring 2015. Reports have now been received and are being reviewed and analysed with consultants.

Tourism

The post of Tourism Development Manager has now been filled by Quentin Buller and he is now working on various projects including a Tourism Summit, which is being planned for March 2015. One of his key roles would be to support the work of Visit Epping Forest which is a forum that brings together key individuals from a number of tourist destinations such as the Gunpowder Mills, Ongar Railway and the Lea Valley White Water Centre.

Staffing

The recruitment of two Assistant Asset Management and Economic Development Assistants is currently underway with the intention of appointing to these posts by mid/late March 2015.